

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS):** (a) to (c) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Scientists from US showed that fruit enriched Soya Yoghurt especially. Soya yoghurt with blue berries contained active natural components which may prevent diabetes and hypertension. This particular study is a laboratory based in vitro study and further in depth clinical studies are necessary to provide that Soya Yoghurt can be used for the treatment of diabetes and hypertension.

#### **Side Effects of iodised salt**

**†491. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the use of iodised salt has been made compulsory for all, as per the orders of his Ministry;
- (b) whether it has been found by the research carried out by 'UNICEF' that the possibility of hyper thyroidism, T.B., Cancer and heart related complications increase due to regular use of iodine which is life threatening;
- (c) whether other alternatives of iodine cannot be used in iodine deficient areas;
- (d) the total financial burden of iodinisation programme being borne by the public; and
- (e) whether the National and multinational companies being benefited by the same?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI):** (a) and (b) Under the PFA Rules 1955 there is restriction on the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption, unless it is iodized. However, non-iodized common salt may be sold for purpose of iodization, iron fortification, animal use, preservation, manufacturing medicines and industrial use under proper lable declaration. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is not aware of such research results. However the consumption of iodised salt as per

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

standards laid down under the prevention of Food Adulteration Act is absolutely safe.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, the iodised salt is the most effective, sustainable and cheapest method for prevention and control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders in the Country.

(d) A budget provision of Rs. 15.00 crores has been made during the current financial year 2006-07. It has been estimated that the cost of iodisation of common salt works out to be 10 paise per kg.

(e) Iodisation of salt is liberalized under the Private Sector. The Salt Commissioner, has permitted 824 Private salt manufacturers for the production of iodised salt. The Government is not providing any financial subsidy to the private salt manufactures.

### **ASHAs under NRHM**

492. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:  
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many Panchayat level Accredited Social Health (ASHAs) have been enrolled under NRHM, give details thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether any minimum and maximum numbers of ASHAs per Panchayat have been prescribed;

(c) what steps are being taken for the skill upgradation for the Panchayat level ASHAs;

(d) how many ASHAs have been trained since inception of NRHM, give details thereof, year-wise and programme-wise; and

(e) which are the agencies involved in skill upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government of India in April 2005 has launched the NRHM to improve access of people in the rural areas especially the poor women and children to quality primary health care services. Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) is an important